

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04544 01 OF 02 181705Z

67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 CU-05 EUR-25

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

/236 W

----- 059135

R 180830Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMECONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 4544

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4493; JAKARTA 10514

1. A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN A NATIONAL ELECTION AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 04544 01 OF 02 181705Z

FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT START A NEW CHAPTER IN

MALAYSIAN POLITICS, AND OUR QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT TELEGRAM ACCOMPANIES THIS MESSAGE (KL 4493). HOWEVER, AS I REREAD AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S MESSAGE FROM JAKARTA (10514) WRITTEN IN TERMS OF INDONESIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, THE CONTRASTS WITH MALAYSIAN PERCEPTIONS MAKE ME FEEL THAT A SUPPLEMENTARY MESSAGE FROM KUALA LUMPUR, CAST IN SIMILAR TERMS, MIGHT BE USEFUL.

2. LIKE INDONESIA, MALAYSIA ALSO SEES THE UNITED STATES AS A FORCE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY, BUT IN A BROADER, MORE DISTANT GENERAL CONTEXT. WE ARE THE TAKEN-FOR-GRANTED BACKGROUND PRESENCE, THE GUARANTOR OF THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR BALANCE, AND A CONSTANT, RATIONAL

RESPONSIBLE FACTOR IN THE INTERNATIONAL EQUATION. IF PRESSED, THEY WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE AMERICAN DETENTE WITH THE PRC AND THE USSR MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THEIR POLICY OF EQUIDISTANCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT TO WORK.

3. IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT, HOWEVER, MALAYSIA'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE U.S. ROLE IN THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE AREA IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. MALAYSIA ADVOCATES A REGIONAL ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY AND IS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN THE AREA. THIS IS THE BASIC PRINCIPLE AND THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE GOM WOULD NOT FAVOR THE ABRUPT WITHDRAWAL OF AN AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, NOT SO MUCH HOWEVER BECAUSE OF THE BENEFIT THEY ATTACH TO THE PRESENCE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE TWO OF ITS ASEAN PARTNERS HAVE U.S. BASES AND BECAUSE ANY ABRUPT ACTION IS INHERENTLY DESTABILIZING. WHILE MANY WOULD DISAGREE, PARTICULARLY IN THE OLDER GENERATION, THE DOMINANT VIEW TODAY IS THAT U.S. MILITARY POWER IN THE AREA IS NEITHER RELEVANT NOR APPLICABLE TO MALAYSIAN SECURITY NEEDS. THE GOM PERCEIVES NO EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT. THE DANGERS TO THE NATION THEY SEE AS COMING FROM INTERNAL SUBVERSION STIMULATED FROM ABROAD. THIS PROBLEM THEY FEEL THEY MUST DEAL WITH ON THEIR OWN, OR AT MOST WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF REGIONAL POWERS. THEY WOULD ARGUE THAT VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA DEMONSTRATE THAT AMERICAN THERAPY TENDS TO BE AS DAMAGING TO THE PATIENT AS THE DISEASE ITSELF. THEY WOULD ARGUE ALSO THAT AN AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE HAS DESTABILIZING ASPECTS BECAUSE IT TENDS TO MAKE THE AREA THE SCENE OF GREAT POWER TESTS OF STRENGTH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 04544 01 OF 02 181705Z

4. THESE ATTITUDES ARE REFLECTED IN THE CHANGES IN THE MALAYSIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET. VICE ADMIRAL MOORER'S VISIT IN 1962 AS COM SEVENTH FLEET WAS A MAJOR POLITICAL, MILITARY AND SOCIAL EVENT. HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE KING AND PRIME MINISTER, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS LAVISH IN ITS HOSPITALITY, AND BOTH GOM TOASTS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS WELL AS PRESS EDITORIALS STRESSED THE VITAL ROLE OF THE SEVENTH FLEET IN PRESERVING PEACE

AND SECURITY IN THE AREA. VICE ADMIRAL STEELE'S VISIT IN 1974 WAS CORRECT AND CORDIAL, BUT THE HIGHEST GOM OFFICIAL HE SAW WAS THE CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF, THERE WERE NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND VIRTUALLY NO PRESS ATTENTION.

5. MALAYSIA, UNLIKE INDONESIA, FEELS IT HAS NO CLAIM ON THE U.S. IT EXPECTS NO CONCESSIONS OR SPECIAL FAVORS. FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ HAD ONE SENATOR AND FOUR CONGRESSMEN WITH HIM AS ADVISORS IN HIS 31 MAN DELEGATION AT THE ADB ANNUAL MEETING HERE IN APRIL. THEY WERE THE FIRST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO VISIT MALAYSIA IN MORE THAN THREE YEARS. IN THE PHILIPPINES OR KOREA, MY TWO PREVIOUS POSTS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO SHOW THEM SPECIAL ATTENTION. HERE THEY WERE TREATED THE SAME AS OTHER ADVISORS IN OUR AND OTHER DELEGATIONS--NO HIGH LEVEL COURTESY CALLS AND NO INVITATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S DINNER, RESTRICTED BY THE SIZE OF HIS HOUSE TO BANK GOVERNORS AND ALTERNATE GOVERNORS.

6. MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE ACCESSIBLE, COURTEOUS, AND FRIENDLY. THE ABSENCE OF ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CONTRIBUTES TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRANKNESS AND DIRECTNESS IN OUR RELATIONS. THERE IS A COMPLETE ABSENCE OF THE CLIENT-STATE SYNDROME IN WHICH THEY HAVE RIGHTS AND WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES. MALAYSIANS WANT NO HANDHOLDING AND SEEK NO INTIMACY. THEY FEEL NEITHER THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF OUR ACTIONS, NOR THE OBLIGATION TO TELL US IN ADVANCE OF THEIR ACTIONS, OUTSIDE THE AREA OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS OR DIRECT INTERESTS. IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH US THERE IS A REALISTIC ACCEPTANCE THAT WE ARE A MAJOR POWER AND THEY ARE A SMALL POWER, BUT THEY ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH US IN TERMS OF EQUAL BENEFIT WITHOUT TRYING TO EXERT THE TYRANNY OF THE WEAK.

7. IN KUALA LUMPUR THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A LOOMING PRESENCE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KUALA 04544 01 OF 02 181705Z

THE OFFICER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEALING WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS THE TITLE OF PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR UNITED NATIONS, AMERICAS AND AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA. HE IS ASSISTED BY THREE JUNIOR OFFICERS. SINCE MY ARRIVAL IN FEBRUARY THE POSITION HAS BEEN VACANT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. THERE ARE SEVENTEEN OFFICERS IN MOFA DEALING WITH ASIAN AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04544 02 OF 02 182214Z

67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 CU-05 EUR-25

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

/236 W

----- 062916

R 180830Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7979

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMECONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 4544

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

8. THIS POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES REFLECTS MALAYSIA'S ANNOUNCED POLICY OF EQUIDISTANCE FROM THE SUPERPOWERS, BUT MY SOVIET COLLEAGUE WOULD ARGUE THAT SOME ARE MORE EQUIDISTANT THAN OTHERS. IN TERMS OF CULTURAL TIES, STUDENT EXCHANGES, ORIENTATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, TECHNICAL TRAINING, TREATMENT IN THE PRESS, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT-(ALL BUT THE LAST ARE AREAS OF SOVIET INTEREST) THE UNITED STATES IS FAR AHEAD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 04544 02 OF 02 182214Z

9. LIKE INDONESIA, MALAYSIA SEES THE UNITED STATES AS AN IMPORTANT MARKET AND AS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE.

DURING MY FIRST CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER I ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS ANY ASPECT OF U.S.-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS WHICH NEEDED ATTENTION. ALL THAT HE MENTIONED IN REPLY WAS HIS DESIRE FOR MORE AMERICAN INVESTMENT. THE GOM HAS CREATED AN ATTRACTIVE CLIMATE FOR AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN INVESTMENT. IT HAS ALSO, BY SETTING CLEAR SOCIAL GOALS (MORE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR MALAYS) AND BY ESTABLISHING STRICT GROUND RULES, CREATED A BARRIER TO THE REJECTION REACTION WHICH OFTEN ACCOMPANY THE INFLOW OF FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN AND FOREIGN ENTERPRISES. THE CONTINUING DISCOVERY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES AND THE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY HOLD OUT PROSPECTS FOR AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

10. MALAYSIA IS ALSO LOOKING TO THE U.S. FOR ITS MILITARY NEEDS. IN ADDITION TO A \$42 MILLION PURCHASE OF F5-E'S UNDER THE FMS PROGRAM, THE GOM HAS RECENTLY DECIDED TO PURCHASE ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS, SIX LOCKHEED C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR \$43 MILLION AND TEN CESSNA AIRCRAFT FOR PILOT TRAINING AMOUNTING TO \$7 MILLION. LIAISON IN THE INTELLIGENCE AREA IS ALSO CLOSE AND PRODUCTIVE.

11. MALAYSIA'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE U.S. CREATES NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FOR US, AND SEEMS TO ME A SOURCE OF SOME SATISFACTION. WE HAVE A COUNTRY WHOSE POLITICAL OUTLOOK AND SOCIAL VALUES ARE IN BASIC HARMONY WITH OUR OWN, THAT IS STABLE AND MODERATELY GOVERNED, A VALUABLE TRADING PARTNER, AND A PROMISING FIELD FOR U.S. INVESTMENT. IT IS FURTHER A COUNTRY WHICH MAKES NO SPECIAL DEMANDS ON US, AND LOOKS TO US ONLY FOR FAIR TREATMENT IN OUR BILATERAL AFFAIRS AND RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT BEFITTING OUR WEALTH AND POWER. MALAYSIA IS NOW IN THE POSITION OF SELF-RELIANCE AND INDEPENDENCE WHICH WE, UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE, WOULD LIKE TO SEE MANY OF ITS SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS ACHIEVE.
UNDERHILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, QUARTERLY REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUALA04544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740262-0159
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740936/aaaabecp.tel
Line Count: 256
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KUALA LUMPUR 4493; JAKARTA 10514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, MY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005